

Amendment/Response

Reply to Office Action of September 14, 2006

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A reticle SMIF pod, comprising:

a dome having a plurality of spring-loaded latchkeys;

a cassette having a plurality of primary engagement locations thereon wherein said latchkeys are intended to engage in said primary engagement locations to seal said cassette to said dome; and

a plurality of secondary engagement locations positioned in said cassette above said plurality of primary engagement locations to prevent said cassette from falling should said plurality of latchkeys fail to engage in said primary engagement locations.

2. (original) A reticle SMIF pod according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of secondary engagement locations corresponds in equal number to said plurality of primary engagement locations.

3. (original) A reticle SMIF pod according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of secondary engagement locations are of a lesser number than said plurality of primary engagement locations.

4. (currently amended) A reticle SMIF pod, comprising:

a dome;

a cassette;

said dome having a plurality of dome engagement means for engaging said dome with a said cassette;

said cassette having a plurality of primary engagement means thereon wherein said dome engagement means are intended to engage with said primary engagement means to seal said cassette to said dome; and

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a plurality of secondary engagement means positioned in said cassette above said plurality of primary engagement means to prevent said cassette from falling should said plurality of dome engagement means fail to engage with said primary engagement means.

5. (original) A reticle SMIF pod according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of secondary engagement means corresponds in equal number to said plurality of primary engagement means.

6. (original) A reticle SMIF pod according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of secondary engagement means are of a lesser number than said plurality of primary engagement means.

7. (currently amended) In a reticle SMIF pod which includes a dome with a plurality of spring-loaded latchkeys for engaging said dome with a cassette, wherein said cassette includes a plurality of primary latchkey receivers which are intended to engage with said plurality of latchkeys, a method for creating a backup fastening between said dome and said cassette should said plurality of latchkeys not properly engage with said primary latchkey receivers, comprising the step of providing a plurality of secondary latchkey receivers positioned in said cassette above said plurality of primary latchkey receivers to prevent said cassette from completely disengaging from said dome should said plurality of latchkeys fail to engage with said primary latchkey receivers.

8. (original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said plurality of secondary latchkey receivers corresponds in equal number to said plurality of primary latchkey receivers.

9. (original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said plurality of secondary latchkey receivers are of a lesser number than said plurality of primary latchkey receivers.